



Appendix Q

Accreditation Program

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Introduction

This appendix contains an overview of the accreditation program that has been initiated by APHIS to facilitate the exportation of commodities to foreign markets.

APHIS, in cooperation with the National Seed Health System, has started a process by which non government organizations can become accredited to perform certain testing on export commodities that are required for the issuance of a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate. Each facility will be audited and evaluated by the National Seed Health System under the direct supervision of the Accreditation Manager of APHIS PPQ. Upon a successful completion of the initial audit and with the approval of APHIS-PPQ an entity will become an accredited entity. Each facility will be accredited to perform certain functions and they will be listed on the letter of accreditation that will be issued by USDA-PPQ.

Facilities will report their findings to the authorized certifying official in writing and that information will become part of the port file copy of the Federal Phytosanitary Certificate. Federal Phytosanitary Certificates will not be issued based on functions a facility is not accredited to perform. The APHIS-PPQ accreditation manager will oversee that the facilities maintain compliance with the standards as specified in the CFR's through once yearly auditing of the facility and proficiency testing. Accreditation lasts for three years and will be renewed after a complete audit of the facility is completed by APHIS-PPQ and the NSHS.

Information on the current status of a facilities will be maintained on the PPQ web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/accreditation>. Any questions can be directed to the APHIS-PPQ accreditation manager at USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale MD 20737. Phone 301- 734-5227, E-mail aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/accreditation.

